



# Camp Akeela<sup>SM</sup> Circular



## A Note From The Directors

Greetings from Camp Akeela! We hope that you're enjoying the fall weather and that the school year is off to a great start. As always, we like to keep our community up to date with any news from camp, even when we're not together at camp. With that in mind, we want to update you on a few changes to our year-round leadership staff.

We have been fortunate to have Dave and Katie Baker in our Akeela family for the past eight years. They met at Akeela, got engaged and celebrated their wedding rehearsal dinner on our campus, and of course were instrumental in opening our Wisconsin camp two years ago. They recently had their second child and as their family grows, they have made the difficult decision to pursue other professional opportunities closer to their home in Vermont.

While change is always difficult, and the Bakers will be dearly missed, we could not be more excited to announce our new Wisconsin directors: **Mike Deutschman and Kevin Trimble!**

Many of you may remember Mike from his many years at Akeela, along with his wife, "Nurse Naomi", their two kids (Noah and Quinn) and their dog, Dexter! Mike is from southeast Minnesota and graduated from U of M with a degree in child psychology. He arrived at Camp Akeela in 2010 and very quickly proved to be something special. He became a head counselor in his second summer, while continuing his career working with children on the autism spectrum in therapeutic and academic settings. Since 2011 he has been the assistant dean at Middlebridge School, a boarding school in Rhode Island that specializes in academics and social pragmatics for students with learning differences. Mike will oversee residential life on our Wisconsin campus, including everything that goes into ensuring campers' social success and emotional well-being.

Most of you already know Kevin Trimble, as he is now in his 6th year on our year-round team. Kevin has done it all at Akeela, including directing Beyond Akeela, our older teen college readiness program, at Lawrence University last summer. His wife, Kristin, will now be taking on a larger role in Beyond Akeela as Kevin steps into the position of overseeing both Camp Akeela in Wisconsin and Beyond Akeela. Kevin will be responsible for all of the programmatic and operational aspects of our Wisconsin programs.

Together, Mike and Kevin are truly a "dream team" for camp. We are so lucky and proud to have them step into these new roles at Akeela.

Love,

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### 2019 DATES

VT FIRST SESSION:  
June 26- July 19

VT SECOND SESSION:  
July 22 - August 14

WI FIRST SESSION:  
June 24 - July 6

WI SECOND SESSION:  
July 7 - July 19

BEYOND AKEELA  
FIRST SESSION:  
June 24 - July 12

BEYOND AKEELA  
SECOND SESSION:  
July 15 - August 2



## Staff Highlight: Mike Deutschman

Mike Deutschman hails from Wakefield, Rhode Island, where he lives with his wife, two children and their dog, Dexter. Mike began working for Camp Akeela in 2010 as a cabin counselor. That summer, he met and fell in love with the camp nurse, who became his wife 3 years later. Mike has worked as a head counselor at Akeela off and on for the past 8 years. He is known for his energetic Richard Simmons impression and signature bushy red beard! Originally from the Midwest, Mike graduated with a degree in child psychology from the University of Minnesota. During and after college, he spent 4 years working at an autism and early childhood intervention center. He loved working one-on-one with clients to improve their social skills, as well as running after school groups for teenagers.

Mike traded in the Midwest flatlands for the Rhode Island ocean and has spent the last 8 years as an Assistant Dean at Middlebridge School, a private boarding high school for students with learning differences. During his free time, Mike enjoys exploring the world with his family, directing the school play and engaging in any card or sports game he can convince others to play with him!

**Favorite Book:** The Hobbit by J.R.R. Tolkien

**Place I'd like to Visit:** New Zealand (to walk the trail to Mordor)

**Favorite Camp Food:** Chicken Patties

## Beyond Akeela Update

We're thrilled to announce that Kristin (soon-to-be) Trimble will be the Director of Beyond Akeela this summer, along with Kevin. We were so lucky to have her join the BA team last summer and couldn't be more excited to have her even more involved this year. Here are some highlights from last summer, too! Interested in learning more about Beyond Akeela? Give us a call or email Kevin ([kevin@campakeela.com](mailto:kevin@campakeela.com))



## Staff Highlight: Kristin Wills

Kristin Wills joined the Akeela team in 2015 as a counselor, and has spent every summer since in the Akeela community, including her role as the Beyond Akeela Head Counselor in 2018. When she's not at camp, Kristin is a school & mental health counselor at a performing arts high school in Philadelphia.

She obtained her graduate degree in Counseling Psychology from Temple University, and has focused her career on high school aged students. Kristin brings her counseling expertise to camp and oversees the social success and emotional well being of Beyond Akeela teens.

During the off-season, Kristin works closely with her soon-to-be husband, Akeela's Assistant Director Kevin Trimble, to build the Beyond Akeela curriculum and meets with each new family. When she's not focused on camp, Kristin enjoys playing in a local volleyball league (with Kevin!), exploring Philadelphia, and finding new recipes to try at home!

**Favorite Book:** A Little Life by Hanya Yanagihara

**Place I'd like to Visit:** Portugal

**Favorite Camp Food:** Vegan cookies

# AKEELA WINTER WEEKEND...

We're looking forward to hosting the 5th annual Winter Weekend reunion in the Berkshires. It's been wonderful to see our campers reconnect with each other, and we can't wait to recreate the magic of camp once again this winter.

When: January 19th – 21st, 2019

Where: The Lodge at Camp Winadu in Pittsfield, MA

Who: 2018 campers who are currently in grades 6-12

\*\* Day camper option available to all 2018 campers



Program includes winter activities at Camp Winadu, a bowling outing, and lots of time to play & hang out with friends. Our amazing staff will be there to supervise and ensure that campers have a wonderful weekend.

Registration forms will be available soon on our website. Be sure to reserve your camper's spot, as space is limited and will fill up quickly!

## ...AND FAMILY RETREAT NEARBY

11 years at Akeela and 7 summers of Family Camp have taught us how much joy, community and connection comes from bringing together not just Akeela campers, but their families, too.

To this end, we're hosting another Family Stay & Play - more details coming soon! While your camper enjoys our Winter Weekend reunion, you can relax and play with old and new friends.

Reserve your family's spot! Registration will be available soon on our website!





# THANK YOU FOR YOUR FEEDBACK!

Thank you so much to those of you who completed our camper and/or parent surveys. (If you haven't had a chance yet, that's okay -- there's still time to do so!) One of the most important things we do in the fall is to think about how we can be even better in the future. We firmly believe that although Akeela is amazing and wonderful, it can always be improved.

We, along with our head counselors, spend a great deal of time writing individual camper reports at the end of each camp session. We believe it's worth the time and energy because many parents have expressed how helpful it is to have a written document to share with other professionals in their children's lives. That said, we have read in some of this year's surveys that these reports are not necessarily as helpful as we would hope. Therefore, we're looking for some advice from you!

Keeping in mind that we are writing approximately 225 reports each year and that they're meant to be a summary of all of the other communication you receive during the summer from your head counselor, please do let us know how we might make reports more helpful. Is there additional information you'd like to see included? What format would be ideal for you? (We have recently moved away from a numeric "scale" as it felt too much like a grading system, opting for more narrative text.) We're open to suggestions! Please email Debbie ([debbie@campakeela.com](mailto:debbie@campakeela.com)) with any thoughts on this.

Thank you so much for your time and help with this very important endeavor!

thank  
you!

## POISE-A-THON

We are proud to announce that through their participation in our POISE-a-thon community service events, Akeela campers (at our Wisconsin and Vermont locations) raised over \$15,000 for charity this summer. All of these donations will go directly to camper scholarships at Akeela, MGH Aspire or other similar camp programs. Thank you all for your participation and generosity.

(If your child participated in the POISE-a-thon and you have not yet had an opportunity to send your corresponding donation, it's not too late! Please visit [www.poisescholarship.org](http://www.poisescholarship.org) to make your contribution. Thanks!)



POISE

# More Weddings & Babies!

Greg Walker and Julia Schettler celebrated their wedding at camp in August! We felt very lucky that they chose to have their friends and family join them up on Miller Pond for the weekend. Chef Grant catered the food and there were lots of Akeela friends there for the occasion. Congratulations (again) to Julia and Greg! At the end of September, Greg and Julia moved back to Iowa so that Julia could continue her graduate studies in interior design and architecture at Iowa State. We'll certainly miss them here in Philly.



Dave and Katie Baker welcomed their son, David Baker Jr. (Deek) into the world on October 6! We're so happy for Dave, Katie and big sister, Addy!



We are thrilled to share with you that we have another Akeela wedding in our future (#9)! Celia and Lily got engaged after camp this summer. We felt lucky to be able to share their special day with them at camp. They are two of our favorite people and we couldn't be happier for them!



# Come and see us!

We'd love to see you in person! Here are some of our travel plans for this fall.

- **AANE Conference with Tony Attwood:** Monday, October 15th (Boston)  
Stop by the Camp Akeela table to chat with Kevin and Catricia!
- **Pizza Party with Debbie & Eric:** Sunday, December 2nd (White Plains, NY)  
Exact timing to be announced soon, but if you're a Vermont camper who lives in the New York area, please save the date!
- **Winter Weekend:** January 19th - 21st (MLK Weekend) (Pittsfield, MA)  
For Vermont campers currently in 6th - 11th grades.

*See you there!*

## UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS...

### CAMPER BIRTHDAYS

Kyra A, October 2	Nells L, November 13
Lucinda M, October 3	Lily W, November 17
Hayden K, October 15	Andreas K, November 18
Manny D, October 17	Samuel K, November 18
Chloe M, October 19	Levi R, November 22
Elliot S, October 21	Jaden T, November 24
Noah J, October 23	Xavier K, November 24
Olivia S, October 24	Elizabeth F, November 25
Ben W, October 27	Elliot K, November 25
Benjamin S, October 27	Benjamin G, November 29
Amanda C, October 28	Jackson B, November 30
Lukas S, October 28	Michael K, November 30
Otelia S, October 28	Shannon R, November 30
Aidan T, November 1	Jared T, December 3
Veronica D, November 2	Alexander K, December 4
Alex K, November 3	Oscar F, December 7
Margo S, November 3	Elizabeth M, December 8
Talia M, November 5	Hayden F, December 10
Abigail A, November 7	Jude H, December 12
Hannah K, November 8	Ian M, December 16
Ryan B, November 8	Matthew D, December 20
Brayden T, November 10	Christopher A, December 22
Reese K, November 11	Grace R, December 30



### STAFF BIRTHDAYS

Amberlee C, October 14	Austin B, December 4
Darragh O, October 17	Eric S, December 4
Rodrigo A, October 19	Jesus Q, December 7
Paul C, October 26	Erin G, December 14
Maddie L, October 27	Angel S, December 15
Danielle L, October 30	Thomas M, December 23
Zak M, November 2	Sergio C, December 24
Dan L, November 4	Celia O, December 29
Sukanya S, November 5	Lev M, December 31
Garrett R, November 8	
Dean P, November 9	
James M, November 12	
Gabe M, November 16	
Ross M, November 20	
Blayne H, November 24	
Ale V, November 24	
Yareli R, November 24	
Zoe T, November 27	
Lauren K, November 29	
David B, December 1	

